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## HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

### ORDER

The 11th January, 2024

No.965—HFW-DCMA-CASE-0002/2024/H— Whereas, Hon'ble High Court while disposing of the W.P.(c) No. 38461/2023 filed by one Rasa @ Rasananda Bhoi Vrs. State of Odisha & Others has made the following observations regarding writing of prescription and medico legal reports in their order No.3, dated the 4th January, 2024.

1. "...In many cases, the casual approach of most of the doctors while writing the postmortem report is affecting the comprehension medico-legal documents badly and the judicial system finds it very difficult to read those letters and come to a definite conclusion.
2. Hence, this Court directs the Chief Secretary, State of Odisha to issue direction to all the doctors of the State to write the post-mortem report and prescription in capital letter or in legible handwriting. Moreover, the tendency of writing such zig zag handwriting, which cannot be read by any common man or by judicial officers, has become a fashion among the doctors of the State. Substantial number of doctors in the State resort to such handwriting which cannot be read by any ordinary person. In such view of the matter, the Chief Secretary of the State is directed to issue a circular to all the Medical Centres, Private Clinics and Medical Colleges and Hospitals directing them to write in proper handwriting or in a type of form when they are prescribing medicine or writing some medico-legal reports.'
3. This Court is also aware of the fact that the duty schedules of medical professionals are very busy and taxing and finding time to write something comfortably often hinders their capacity to examine more and more patients

within the stipulated time. This Court appreciates the services rendered by the medical professional during the COVID-19 period or during any kind of emergency situation. But, at the same time it is generally felt that the medical prescription and medico-legal documents are written in bad handwriting which affects the quality of appreciation of evidence in the judicial system. Hence, it is expected that any doctors, who are dealing with medico-legal issues and writing casually with very poor handwriting, are required to change their attitude and write either in capital letter or in a typed form or in good handwriting so that the judicial system does not suffer from unnecessary fatigue in reading their handwriting."

Though from time to time it has been instructed to prescribe in legitimate clear handwriting reflecting generic name it is observed that the instruction is not carried out by many of the Medical Officers

In view of the above backdrop, all concerned both in Government & Private Health sectors are instructed to ensure the following directions while writing prescription and medico legal reports.

- a. All Registered Medical Practitioners / Medical Officers of Govt. Peripheral health care facilities/ Medical College Hospitals, Private Clinics and Pvt. Medical Colleges are to write prescription in proper legible handwriting or in typed form as per guideline of NMC (Chapter 2-4B / Notification No. 12013, dated the 23rd May, 2022).
- b. The medico legal reports & post-mortem reports are to be written either in capital letter or in a typed form or in good legible handwriting to ensure appreciation of evidence in the judicial system and to be uploaded in MLOS.

This will come into force with immediate effect.

P.K. JENA  
Chief Secretary, Odisha

